
NEWS From:

Congressman Mike Honda

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For Immediate Release:

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**Honda Joins Reps. Wu and Johnson In Releasing GAO Report
Probing Discriminatory Practices at Department of Energy Labs**

Washington, D.C.— U.S. Congressman and Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Vice Chair, Mike Honda (D-San Jose) today joined Representatives David Wu (D-OR) and Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) to release a report they requested the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) perform to investigate potentially discriminatory employment practices at U.S. National Weapons Labs. The report reveals several troubling disparities and patterns pertaining to the employment of minorities at the Lawrence Livermore, Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories, overseen by the U.S. Department of Energy.

“The disparity in salaries and the rate of promotion between minorities when compared to white males in the same jobs at our National Laboratories is alarming,” said Honda. **“These findings demand further Congressional action to determine the cause of these inequities so that we may remedy them to ensure that the Department of Energy can recruit and retain the highest quality ethnically diverse workforce.”**

GAO has analyzed five years of data (1995-2000) regarding the handling of some 22,000 employees at Sandia, Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Labs. Using rigorous analysis of employment data, GAO found statistically significant differences in the way women and people of color are treated at the labs in their pay, promotions and cash awards. Salaries for minority men and women and white women were lower than for white men with the exceptions of Asian American men at Los Alamos and Sandia and Hispanic men at Lawrence Livermore.

Comparing men and women of the same race/ethnicity, GAO found that White, Asian and Hispanic women earned less than their male counterparts. The report also finds that there are further areas for investigation. For example, with over 300 Asian American professional staff at Lawrence Livermore, not one was promoted to a managerial position between 1998 and 2000. After reading the report, Honda called for a meeting with Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham and for a hearing on the issue by the House Committee on Science.

Congressman Honda is the Vice Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and serves on the House Science Committee, which has jurisdiction over matters relating to energy including research and development, demonstration programs and Department of Energy Science activities. Representative Wu serves as the Chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and also serves on the House Science Committee. Representative Johnson is the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and Ranking Member on the Basic Research Subcommittee of the Science Committee.

The view the full GAO report, go to:

[GAO-02-391 <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d02391.pdf>](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d02391.pdf)